

ABERCARN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year 1946.

Chairman	...	...	Councillor D. C. EVANS, J.P.
Vice-Chairman	...	...	Councillor LEWIS JAMES
Councillor	T. M. Edwards		Councillor F. Edwards
"	I. Jarrett	"	D. T. Bigham
"	D. Belcher	"	R. Morris
"	A. E. Strongman	"	H. West REED.
"	Arthur Jones	"	T. B. Dart
"	T. J. Jenkins	"	Mrs. M. A. Matthews
"	G. Yearsley	"	J. Holley
"	W. Cross	"	G. Moses

OFFICERS.

Clerk	...	...	...	...	Leon King
Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	J. Dunlop
Sanitary Inspector	...	...	...	...	I. Jenkins
Engineer and Surveyor	...	...	...	...	Malcolm T. Benjamin
Architect	...	...	...	...	Edmund G. Jenkins
Valuation Officer	...	...	...	...	C. Knight
Gas Engineer	...	...	...	...	T. Wilkinson
Assistant Accountant	...	...	...	...	G. Lavin

The Surgery,
ABERCARN.
30th April, 1947.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Abercarn Urban District Council.*

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting my Annual Report upon the Vital Statistics and Sanitary administration of your Area.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	9,543 Acres
Population—Registrar General's Estimate	18,750
Inhabited Houses :	1944 4,497
	1945 4,497
	1946 4,545
Rateable Value :	1944 £67,117
	1945 £66,129
	1946 £66,383
Product of Penny Rate :	1944 ... £241 5s. 9d.
	1945 ... £239 6s. 10d.
	1946 ... £239 13s. 11d.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS.

Live Births—

			1944	1945	1946
Legitimate	...	...	353	336	354
Illegitimate	...	...	11	18	15
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	364	354	369
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Males	...	...	198	179	198
Females	...	...	166	175	171
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	364	354	369
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Population	...	...	...	...	19.4
Birth Rate—England and Wales	...	...	...	...	19.1

Stillbirths—

			1944	1945	1946
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 of the Population	...	...	0.75	0.58	0.68

DEATHS.

			1944	1945	1946
Males	...	...	106	134	122
Females	79	99	102
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	185	233	224
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population—

	9.66	12.3	11.7
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ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEASES. DEATHS.

			1944	1945	1946
Bronchitis	11	15	16
Pneumonia	15	21	18
Other Forms	...	...	1	—	3
			—	—	—
Total	...	...	27	36	37
			—	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1946.

M.	F.						
1945		ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	122	102
						M.	F.
2	4	Tuberculosis Respiratory System	...	...	...	2	5
2	—	Tuberculosis (Other Forms)	...	...	...	2	1
—	—	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	—	—
—	—	Influenza	...	...	...	4	5
2	3	Cancer of B. Cav.—Oesoph. (M), Uterus (F)	...	...	...	5	1
9	7	Cancer—Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	4	5
—	2	Breast	...	...	...	1	2
4	2	Cancer—Other Sites	...	...	...	10	2
1	—	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1
—	—	Intro Cranial Vascluar Lesions	...	...	...	9	15
40	27	Heart Disease	...	...	...	29	14
—	—	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	...	...	...	3	3
10	5	Bronchitis	...	...	...	10	6
12	9	Pneumonia	...	...	...	7	11
—	2	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	2	1
—	4	Ulcer—Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	2	2
—	—	Diarrhoea (under two years)	...	...	...	1	1
—	—	Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	2
—	2	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	5	4
—	1	Nephritis	...	...	...	2	3
—	2	Maternal Causes	...	...	...	—	1
—	—	Premature Births	...	...	...	2	2
8	9	Con. Mal. Birth Injuries Infant Diseases	...	...	...	4	2
—	—	Suicides	...	...	...	1	—
2	—	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	2	—
3	—	Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	4	—
5	6	All Other Causes	...	...	...	11	11
		Total	...	...	...	122	102

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Number of deaths under one year:

			1944	1945	1946
Boys	...	...	9	7	8
Girls	..	...	6	8	8
			—	—	—
Total	...		15	15	16
			—	—	—

Causes of Infant deaths at various ages.

		Weeks.					Months.				
		1	2	3	4	Total	3	6	9	12	Total
Convulsions	...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Cardiac Failure	...	1	—	—	1	2	1	1	—	—	2
Spina Befida	...	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	...	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	—	—	2
Deficient Vitality	...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
		<hr/>					<hr/>				
Total	...	6	2	1	2	11	3	2	—	—	5
		<hr/>					<hr/>				

CANCER. DEATHS.

Males	...	...	...	8	11	15	19
Females	...	...	...	15	7	14	6
				—	—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	23	18	29	25
				—	—	—	—

CORONER'S INQUESTS.

Fourteen inquests were held during 1946, the certified causes of death were :—

Coronary Diseases	...	...	...	3
Suicide	...	...	...	2
Road Accident	...	...	...	4
Colliery Accident	...	...	...	1
Accident in the Home	...	...	...	1
Drowning Accident	...	...	...	1

NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING PAST FOUR YEARS.

			1943	1944	1945	1946
Scarlet Fever	...	...	24	20	17	25
Diphtheria	...	...	19	—	9	5
Pneumonia	...	...	8	23	35	23
Meningitis	...	...	2	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	5	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	315	25	214	16
Tuberculosis	...	...	33	46	32	34
Erysipelas	...	...	1	1	1	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	7	—	11
Chicken Pox	...	...	—	—	—	72
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	—	—	—	—
Total ...			410	123	308	188

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES and MORTALITY in 1946.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths				Removed from District	
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
5	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
15	4	1	—	—	5	—	1	1	—	2
20	5	3	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—
25	4	4	—	—	8	1	—	—	—	1
35	2	3	—	—	5	—	1	—	—	1
45	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1
55	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
65	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	20	11	3	—	34	3	4	1	1	9

SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS CASES.

				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total
				M.	F.	M.	F.	
Total Cases on Register as at								
31-12-1945	...	...	...	48	47	16	30	141
New Cases, 1946	...	...	...	20	11	3	—	34
Deaths	...	...	...	3	4	1	1	9
Recovered	...	...	...	2	1	—	2	5
Removed from District	...			1	2	—	—	3
Cases on Register, 31-12-1946	...			62	51	18	27	158

Analysis of Cases Notified—In Age Groups.

			Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65	Total
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	5
Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	—	2	2	4	11	2	3	1	—	—	—	25
Pneumonia	...	...	—	1	3	—	3	1	—	1	—	—	4	9	23
Measles	...	...	—	1	4	6	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
Whooping Cough	...	...	1	1	2	4	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	11
Erysipelas	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Total	...	...	1	4	11	13	11	15	6	4	2	2	4	9	82

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Medical Officer of Health : J. Dunlop, M.B., F.R.C.S. (Ed.).

Sanitary Inspector : Ivor H. Jenkins, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries maintained at Pontllanfraith, where patients can be X-rayed.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are maintained by the County Council at Abercarn, Newbridge and Crumlin.

The Local Nursing Association maintains two District Nurses.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Children can receive free treatment at the local Surgeries and also at the Infant and Child Welfare Centres.

Children are immunised free at the Schools and at the various Surgeries. Children under five receive immunisation treatment at the Infant Welfare Clinics.

This free service is brought to the notice of parents by means of Cinema Films, Posters, and Hand Bills.

Vaccination.

There are two Public Vaccinators in the Area.

Hospitals.

The Council have no Hospital, but arrangements have been made for the reception of infectious cases from this District at the Bedwellty Isolation Hospital, Aberbargoed. Owing to the shortage of staff this Hospital has not been able to accept 'Scarlet Fever Cases for years.

Ambulance Service.

Two Ambulances are provided by agreement with the Priory for Wales to convey residents in the Abercarn Urban Area to Hospitals, etc. The service has been used extensively and has proved to be a boon to the sick and injured.

Bacteriological Examination of Pathological Specimens.

Samples of milk and water are submitted to the Laboratory at the County Hall, Newport, for examination periodically.

Rivers and Streams.

The River Ebbw and the Monmouthshire Canal runs through the Council's Area. Both water courses are periodically affected by subsidence, and this causes flooding, especially between Newbridge and Crumlin. The Canal Bank collapsed near Chapel-of-Ease, Abercarn, during the year owing to this trouble.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Council is a constituent Authority of the Western Sewerage Board. All the Council's subsidiary sewers are connected to the Main Trunk Sewer. Sewerage Schemes have been prepared for Graig Bungalows, Cwmcarn, Twyn College, Penar, and the Pant, Newbridge, and Pentrepeod. The Croespenmaen Sewer has been completed and the insanitary Cesspit has been put out of use.

Scavenging.

The Council undertook the Scavenging of the northern part of the Area by direct labour during the year. The work is now carried on under direct supervision with much better results. They have purchased a proper Scavenging Vehicle for this work.

It is hoped that when additional vehicles are obtained that all the Council's Area will be scavenged by direct labour.

Rainfall.

Rainfall is recorded at Abercarn Cemetery.

Height about sea level 529.9 ft.

The table shows the monthly rainfall, also the day of the month when the greatest fall occurred.

Month	Rainfall	Greatest fall in 24 hours in inches.	Date	No. of days with less than 0.1 in.
January	8.64	1.43	31st	15
February	4.17	7.78	2nd	14
March	1.85	.66	21st	7
April	2.07	1.55	4th	12
May	4.24	1.64	28th	13
June	5.46	.87	27th	24
July	3.54	1.21	27th	9
August	10.55	2.10	28th	22
September	9.98	2.00	3rd	24
October	1.87	4.8	19th	8
November	10.31	2.13	23rd	25
December	8.5	1.64	22nd	22
Total	70.73	7.78	2-2-46	195

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The Council are a constituent Authority of the Abertillery and District Water Board. The main supply is from the Grwyne-fawr Reservoir situate in the Black Mountain of Breconshire. There is a good supply of water of good quality at all times.

The number of dwelling houses with a piped
supply is 4,175

Number of Hill Farms and Cottages with
supplies from wells and springs ... 319

Bacteriological Examination is carried out by the Water Board.

Refuse Disposal.

The disposal of Refuse has been a source of serious concern to the Council for some years, as it is difficult to find a suitable site which would not interfere with the amenities of the locality.

After inspecting various sites in the Area the Council decided to utilise the Pantyresk Valley for the disposal of all the refuse

collected in the District and to carry out the properly controlled system, whereby no serious nuisance would arise. It is the intention to level up the ground so that the levelled area could be used for other purposes.

If this Scheme develops according to plan, tipping space would be available for many years.

J. DUNLOP, M.B., F.R.C.S. (Ed.),

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Council Offices,
ABERCARN, Mon.

30th April, 1947.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Abercarn Urban District Council.*

Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report of Sanitary Work done during the Year 1946.

Housing.

Number of Dwelling-houses inspected	...	63
Re-inspected	... ..	41
Warning Notices served	... ..	63
Remedied without Notice	... ..	25
Statutory Notices served	... ..	38
Statutory Notices complied with	... ..	37
Statutory Notices not complied with	... ..	1
Number of Houses in Area	... ..	4,545
Number of Houses owned by Council	...	397
Number of New Houses erected during 1946	...	Nil
Drains reported stoppage and cleared by		
Owner	... ..	37
Drains reported stoppage and cleared by		
Council	... ..	29

The tabulated figures show the number of houses dealt with:—

Number of Dwelling-houses erected during the Year:—

By the Council	... ..	50 Prefabricated Bungalows
By Private Enterprise	... ..	1

The following statement is in the form prescribed by the Ministry:—

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	.. .. .	63
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	... ..	104

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...							Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	6
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	...	...	...					57
2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	39
3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—								
(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:								
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...						38
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—								
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...			37
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...							1
Number of houses licensed for Evacuees	...	...						2
Number of houses under Circular 2845	...	...	...					15
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:								
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—								
(a) By Owners	...	..	...	...	...			27
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...							Nil
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:								
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...					Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...					Nil

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 .

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding:—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 207

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... 624

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 2,078

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... 48

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 50

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 129

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... 1

Housing Conditions.

The Housing position at the beginning of 1946 was in a very serious state of overcrowding. It has become so prevalent in the District that it is impossible to keep any check upon it.

INSPECTION OF MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

Milk Supply.

Number of Cowsheds on Register ... 44

Number of Milk Producers of Register ... 70

Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk ... 56

Cowsheds are inspected for fitness and cleanliness in general; most are found to be satisfactory. The great fault in some of the Hill Farms is that the water supply is not piped from the main, and farmers have to depend on wells and springs, which frequently go dry during the summer. Consequently on these occasions there is difficulty in keeping cows clean.

Weekly sampling was kept up during the year—287 samples were taken for examination under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme. Samples are also taken for Bacteriological Examination; these examinations ensure that a clean and disease free milk reaches the public. The County Food and Drugs Inspector takes samples for testing the milk fat and milk solid contents.

Meat and Other Foods.

Fresh killed meat is slaughtered at the Brynmawr Government Slaughterhouse, where meat is inspected by a full-time Inspector. Imported meat is also supplied through the slaughterhouse and is inspected before delivery to the Shops.

No disease has been found on re-inspection in this District, but at times decomposed meat has been found. Every butcher now has a refrigerator, and meat is consequently kept in good condition.

Other Foods.

Since the War a large quantity of tinned foods has been condemned as being unfit for consumption owing to the tins being damaged and rusty. This is largely due to the lack of wooden containers and rough handling.

Arrangements have been made for the return of Butter, Bacon and Tinned Milk to the Suppliers where these goods have been found to be unfit, so that they may be salvaged.

The following articles were dealt with during the year:—

Fresh Meat	... 23 lbs.	Condensed Milk	... 230 Tins
Butter	... 287 „	Sardines	... 7 „
Cheese	... 16 „	Salmon	... 48 „
Margarine	... 14 „	Pilchards	... 54 „
Flour	... 304 „	Steak	... 9 „
Sugar	... 112 „	Peas	... 32 „
Prunes	... 16 „	Beans	... 86 „
Dates	... 33 „	Tinned Fruit	... 31 „
Tomatoes	... 72 „	Jam	... 7 „
Bread	... 90 „	Bacon	... 172 „
Tea	... 30 „	Tinned Beef	... 61 „
Carrots	... 2 Tins	Tinned Tomatoes	.. 8 „

Rats and Mice Destruction.

The work of poisoning rats and mice is carried out by your full-time Operative, who attends to all complaints immediately they are received. Whilst the Ministry methods are not the same as the methods usually carried out, we find that the kills are larger and complete.

Systematic sewer baiting helps to keep surface infestations down.

Bakehouses.

These places are regularly inspected, and they are kept clean and whitewashed according to regulations. Night work has ceased in these premises.

Ice Cream Regulations.

More stringent regulations have been drafted for the manufacture of this product. The Regulations provide that when a hot mix is used efficient sterilisation must be provided.

Arrangements have been made with all Ice Cream Manufacturers in the Area to instal the necessary equipment to meet the Regulations.

Where Ice Cream is sold by retail and not manufactured, we have arranged that a proper hygenic Container is provided.

Shops Acts.

All shops close at the appointed time, and with the exception of two Grocers' Shops close on Saturdays for the weekly half-holiday. The Regulations applicable to the employment of young people are obeyed in every instance.

Fish Fryers.

These shops are inspected regularly, and there is now little to complain about at these places. Sometimes I have to request the clearance of empty fish boxes which cause offensive smells.

Cinemas.

I have inspected these premises frequently and found them kept clean. The Sanitary arrangements, whilst adequate, are used by young children who are not careful, and occasional fouling has been found.

All are using disinfectant.

IVOR JENKINS,
Sanitary Inspector.

